

as legitimate baptism, in case of sickness or scarcity of water or other necessity.

"Single immersion has no proper authority in antiquity, as it was forbidden in the east, and only tolerated in the west as valid, but incomplete."

From the meaning of the word baptize, the grammatical construction of the formula in the commission, the history of baptism, the idiomatic expressions used in Acts, in connection with baptism, and the two instances of apostles, either rebaptizing persons who had not been baptized according to commission, or completing such baptism, it is plain that there is no real authority for single immersion, and that it is very important that baptism be performed according to God's word.

Should one come to me to receive baptism that would have only a single immersion, and could put all the responsibility upon me, if in the wrong, for his not being baptized, I could not now baptize him. But I would help him to find some one who would do it.

Should one who had received a single immersion give himself to my guidance, putting me under the same condition as before, I would seek to know into which of the three names he had been baptized. If that could be determined, then I would baptize him into the other two. Failing in that, I would baptize him into the three names, one immersion into each name.

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FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

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"Thy sins are forgiven." Luke 7: 48.

Introduction.—We find Christ dining with a Pharisee. The Pharisees were a religious sect among the Jews. They were proud, and arrogant, often subjecting themselves, to severest censure of Christ.

Christ came down from the mountain where he preached the famous beatitudes, entered into Capernaum, healed the centurion's servant, passed on to the city of Nain, raised the widow's son, and then performed wonders and miracles in the presence of John's disciples, and after they had departed, he spoke to the people concerning John the Baptist; after he had finished speaking, one of the Pharisees invited Christ to come and dine with him. He accepted the invitation.

It seems that a certain woman of the city, who was a sinner, knew that Jesus was at the Pharisee's house. She brought an alabaster box of ointment, and stood at the feet of Jesus and wept, washed his feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head, and anointed them with the ointment. When the Pharisee

saw this, he thought if this man would be a prophet, he would certainly know that this woman is a sinner. But Christ, who was able to discern the thoughts of men, knew more about this woman than Simon did. Turning to the woman, he said to Simon: "Seest thou this woman?" Simon was so proud in his own conceit, that he dared hardly glance at this sinful woman. Christ says, "I entered your house and ye gave me no water to wash my feet." This woman hath washed my feet with tears. The most priceless of all waters, she poured forth from the fountains of her heart, the tears fell in such profusion that they wet the feet of Jesus. Then she wiped them with the hairs of her head. Thou gavest me no kiss, but this woman, since the time I came in, hath not ceased to kiss my feet, and she hath anointed my feet with anointment. Wherefore, I say unto thee, her sins, which are many, are forgiven." And said to the woman, "thy sins are forgiven." This single act of humility, of bowing low at the Savior's feet, caused him to forgive her many transgressions.

Just so with the sinner. He must humble himself at the feet of Jesus. Bow down at the feet of the Son of God, if he would be saved.

1. Now, in the first place, I want to tell you that it is the penitent sinner whose transgressions will be forgiven.

2. In the second place, I propose to prove that God is the only one who is able to forgive the sins of the children of men.

Now, I say I am going to talk about sin. Some one says, what is sin? Sin is a violation of the divine law, or to depart knowingly, from a rule of duty.

Man was created, placed in the garden of Eden, where he might live in peace, in contentment, and in joy, feasting on the glories and splendors of this paradise.

God told Adam what to do. He said, "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it, for in the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die."

What more could man wish to have? Why not be satisfied? No other human being upon the face of the earth, to vie with them, for the luxuries which they enjoyed undisturbed, unmolested, and undisputed sovereigns of all. After a while, the serpent comes along, and he says to the woman, "God hath said, ye shall not eat of the fruit of every tree of the garden," and the woman told him that God had commanded them that they should not eat of the fruit of the tree which stood in the midst of the garden,

lest they die. But the serpent said, "ye shall not die, for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." The old serpent induced the woman to eat of the fruit, the woman induced the man. And just so it is to-day. There is an old saying, "One fool makes many." That is just the way it is with the sinner. You see you or your neighbor do something wrong. You think, "Oh well, if he can do that and do no harm, it will not hurt me to do the same thing." But mark you, as certain as there is a God in heaven to-day, there will be a time of reckoning. Jesus will come in great power and glory, to judge the quick and the dead.

How many pay the penalty while existing here upon earth. Take Moses if you please. He led the children of Israel, from the land of bondage, through the wilderness to the verge of the promised land. But alas, it was not for him to enter, once even he wandered from the prescribed path of duty, by reason of which he was excluded from the fair land of Canaan. This world is a wilderness of sin, we are wanderers here, and without the aid and assistance of Almighty God, we will wander so far away from God and his mercies, that we will be lost forever. The man who lives the life of a sinner, and who dies the death of a sinner, will be buried a sinner, will be resurrected a sinner, will stand before the judgment bar of God a sinner, and will receive a sinner's doom, will hear the sentence, "I know ye not, whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity." "There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out." Yes, if you don't serve the Lord while here upon earth, you'll never be permitted to enter in at the pearly gates. You'll never be permitted to walk the golden streets of the New Jerusalem. Take the case of Lazarus and the rich man. The rich man was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day." And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus who was laid at the gate full of sores, and he desired to be fed with the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. After a while, the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried, and in hell he lifted up his eyes, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom, and he cried and said, "Father Abraham have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue, for I am tormented in this flame." Abra-